



These websites work for you

WANT TO decrease traffic congestion? manage growing travel demand? improve air quality and reduce fuel consumption? reduce aggressive driving behavior and the number of severe accidents? save time for emergency vehicles?

Something as relatively simple and inexpensive as optimizing signal timing has been demonstrated to help agencies accomplish these critical goals, and FHWA's new video, "It's About Time, Traffic Signal Management: Cost Effective Street Capacity and Safety," demonstrates how. This effective video will help elected officials understand the importance of installing up-to-date, optimally timed traffic signals in your community. Find out more or order the video online: www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov (click on "Arterial Toolbox"). The video is also available for loan through the LTAP library. Contact Jim Hogan, library coordinator, 515-294-9481, hoganj@iastate.edu.

Speaking of air quality . . . The FHWA, FTA, and EPA have teamed up to produce a guide to help state and local agencies comply with requirements in the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990. This updated version reflects recent legislation and legal decisions. Check it out online. www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/conformity/basic_gd.htm.

Need to find an expert on (you name it)? To find just the right person or service in the vast network of FHWA's four regional Resource Centers, access Expertise Locator, a new, web-based customer interface. Expertise Locator presents all the centers' talents through one virtual interface. Browse the site and connect with a real person! <http://highwayexpertise.fhwa.dot.gov>.

Stre-e-tch local agency funds. The FHWA's Technology for Local Governments site includes a list of topics on resource management, along with contact information for an expert on each topic. www.fhwa.dot.gov/region8/ushowus/index.htm.

Virtual government: get the latest info. The Government Technology website provides "solutions for state and local government in the information age." Its primary offering is a set of links to technology-in-government-focused, online publications: *Mobile Government*, *Tech Trends*, *Local.US*, *Visions*, and more. www.govtech.net/.

The latest FHWA notices, publications, training events. A good site to bookmark, this page lists day-by-day additions to FHWA's website. www.fhwa.dot.gov/new.html.

Practical research findings. Check out bicycle-friendly rumble strip designs from Pennsylvania, a computer analysis model for broken-back culverts from Nebraska, using tire chips as a base course on a local Vermont road (and many other applications for shredded tires), a method used in California to replace damaged signs in just ten minutes, and more at AASHTO's Research

Advisory Committee's High Value Research website: www4.nationalacademies.org/trb/scor/states.nsf.

A new tool for metropolitan planners. The Metropolitan Capacity Building (MCB) program provides information on the planning process and a means for sharing examples of good practice. The MCB website is a "one-stop" shop for information on designing and operating effective transportation facilities in the face of challenges like financial constraints, growth issues, air quality and congestion issues, etc. The site is sponsored by FHWA and FTA. www.mcb.fhwa.dot.gov/.

Beyond sign management systems. Electronic or manual, a sign management system (see the December 2001 issue of *Technology News*) is only as effective as the crew that maintains your signs. A new FHWA training resource, *Maintenance of Signs and Sign Supports for Local Roads and Streets*, clearly describes the safety implications of well-maintained signs, as well as straightforward how-to's. This pamphlet can be downloaded and modified for local use from the FHWA Safety Core Business Unit's What's New website. http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/whats_new.htm.

Speaking of safety . . . Iowa's been teaming up with five other states to identify best safety practices. Their conclusions are described in a recent report, *National Review of the Highway Safety Improvement Program*, which will soon be posted online: <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

And more safety . . . The compliance date for installing certain "crashworthy" roadside safety hardware (as defined in NCHRP Report 35) on National Highway System roadways has been extended to October 1, 2002. For a list of crashworthy hardware, copies of FHWA acceptance letters for each of them, links to manufacturers' websites, and an "Ask the Experts" service where you can address questions about NCHRP Report 35, see the FHWA's website on roadside hardware: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/roadside_hardware.htm.

And more . . . Do you know how to predict the safety performance of existing or proposed rural, two-lane highways? The FHWA's Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center can help with its report describing a newly developed algorithm. The algorithm forms the basis for Crash Prediction Module software, which is being beta-tested in early 2002. An abstract of the final report, and ordering information, are online: www.tfsrc.gov/safety/99207.htm.

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Come to think of it, FHWA's Safety Core Business Unit's site is a cornucopia of safety information. <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/index.htm>.

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And just for fun . . . Want to know how hydraulic cranes work? How oysters make pearls? If you're just plain curious about how stuff works, this site's a gold mine. www.howstuffworks.com. •